

loooi *Southern Italy circa 1000*
AJ). 25

The military power of the Eastern Empire was behind the Hellenistic influences that operated in Lower Italy, From 959 to 1025 the throne of the Basileus was held by the vigorous race of the Macedonians and several great Emperors re-stored the frontiers of the Danube and Syria, Nicephorus Phocas could take to the capture of Crete in 960 a fleet of 3600 vessels and a landing force of 50,000 men, The Byzantine army was the one force in Europe that was thoroughly equipped and scientifically trained; the one army whose officers marched to war with text-books on the military art in their wallets, * which on the march was followed by a train of engineers and an ambulance corps, which was drilled into an elaborate and strikingly modern system of formation and attack, In physique and animal courage the Greeks were certainly inferior to the barbarian Slavs, Russians, and Moslems whom they had to face, but the confidence born of good armour, careful drill, and scientific leadership, and the possession in the, Greek fire of something corresponding to modern artillery, gave them a pertinacity and morale which over and over again

was able to wear down mere brute
valour. The
discipline and science of the Byzantine
armies
compel not only respect but
admiration; they had

¹ Thews manuals of warfare against Franka,
Lombard*, and
Arab* which officers were obliged to master were
the *Slmttgieon*
of the Emperor Maurice (written circa 570-80),
and the *Tactiea*
of Leo the Wise, 900 A.D,